

**REMARKS**

Enclosed herewith is a Declaration Under 37 CFR § 1.131. The Declaration, along with the enclosed copy of a publication referred to in the Declaration, establish that the inventors had conceived of and reduced to practice the invention of claim 1 of the subject application before the July 14, 2000 filing date of the cited reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,484,099. Accordingly, the 6,484,099 patent may not be used as a reference, and the claims are thus patentable.

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If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned in Westborough, Massachusetts, (508) 898-1501.

Respectfully submitted,



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Brian M. Dingman  
Reg. No. 32,729

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